

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 12943 021608Z

50

ACTION SY-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6866

INFO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

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AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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COMUSMACTHAI

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 12943

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, TH, US

SUBJ: PLANNED ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATION FOR JULY 4 - STIREP 5

REF: A) STATE 152784; B) BANGKOK 12706

SUMMARY: STUDENT ACTIVISTS BEGAN THEIR ANTI-AMERICAN WEEK AT THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY WITH A BLAND PANEL DISCUSSION. MEANWHILE, THE CONSERVATIVES PROJECT A STRONGER IMAGE EACH DAY. THE PEOPLE'S MORALITY PROTECTION GROUP (PMPG) HAS DISTRIBUTED LEAFLETS THROUGHOUT BANGKOK OPPOSING THE ANTI-AMERICAN ACTIVISTS. SIMILAR CONSERVATIVE ACTIVITIES ARE IN PROGRESS UP COUNTRY. THE POLICE AND OTHER EMBASSY CONTACTS NOW TAKE THE VIEW THAT THERE WILL BE NO LARGE LEFTIST DEMONSTRATIONS IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY ON JULY 4. THERE REMAINS, HOWEVER, A POSSIBILITY THAT MAVERICK GROUPS COULD STILL CREATE SOME TROUBLE. END SUMMARY

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 12943 021608Z

1. THE ACTIVISTS. STUDENT ACTIVISTS BEGAN THEIR ANTI-AMERICAN WEEK AT THAMMASAT UNIVERISTY WITH EXHIBITS AND MUSIC. THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION DID NOT ALLOW THE ORGANIZERS TO USE THE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM FOR THEIR LATE AFTERNOON PANEL DISCUSSION ON "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM IN THE THIRD WORLD." THE PANEL INCLUDED: SAMRAENG KHAMPHA-U, WRITER FOR SOCIAL SCIENCE REVIEW (SSR); SUCHAT SAWATSI, EDITOR, SSR; DR. CHANWITH KASWTSIRI, LECTURER, LIBERAL ARTS FACULTY, THAMMASAT; PHIRUN CHATWANITCHAKUN, WRITER, PRACHATHIPATAI; SONTI LIMTHONGKUN, WRITER, PRACHATHIPATAI; DR. KHUNTHONG INTARATHAI, LECTURER, THAMMASAT; AND MODERATOR SUTHAN SAENGPRATHUM. NONE OF THE PANELISTS GOET MUCH OF A RISE OUT OF THE AUDIENCE ACCORDING TO OUR POLITICAL ASSISTANCT. OF ALL THE JULY 2 NEWSPAPERS, ONLY THAI-LANGUAGE "THAI RATH" CARRIED AN ARTICLE ON THE PANEL DISCUSSION.

2. THE THAMMASAT SEMINAR APPEARS TO BE IN KEEPING WITH THE NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND'S (NSCT) PUBLIC PROMISE, REITERATED IN A MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICER JULY 1, THAT THE ANTI-AMERICAN PROGRAM WILL BE PEACEFUL AND AIMED AT "EDUCATING" THE PUBLIC. POSTERS AROUND THAMMASAT, HOWEVER, CALL FOR A "HYDE PARK" RALLY AT 1500 HOURS LOCAL ON JULY 4.

3. BOTH UDORN AND CHIANG MAI CONSULATES REPORT ANTI-AMERICAN PSOTERS HAVE APPEARED IN THEIR CITIES. CHIANG MAI NOW REPORTS THAT DEMONSTRATION ORGANERS PLAN A RALLY IN THE CITY ON THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 4. ADDITIONAL EVENTS WILL T BE FORMALIZED UNTIL FINAL INSTRUCTIONS ARRIVE FROM ACTIVIST LEADERS IN BANGKOK JULY 3. THERE IS SOME POSSIBILITY THAT ACTIVISTS, THWARTED IN BANGKOK, HAVE COME TO CHIANG MAI AND MAY AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION THERE.

4. THE CHIANG MAI CONSUL REPORTS THAT WHEN THE MSCT ANNOUNCED IN BANGKOK THAT THERE WOULD BE NO DEMONSTRATION, ACTIVISTS IN LAMPHUN PROVINCE DECIDED TO SCRUB ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES AND WILL CONCENTRATE ON THE LOCAL GOVERNOR INSTEAD.

5. THE CONSERVATIVES. THE LONG SUFFERING RIGHT WING,
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BANGKO 12943 021608Z

UNDER THE STING OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVIST ANTI-AMERICAN JULY 4 DEMONSTRATIONS, HAS ORGANIZED ITS OWN COUNTER-DEMONSTRATION. PHAN WISUT, THE LEADER OF THE PEOPLE'S NORALITY PROTECTION GROUP (PMPG), SPOKE WITH THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER JULY 1 ABOUT HIS GROUP'S PROPOSED GATHERING AT THE EMBASSY TO PRESENT A LETTER OF APPRECIATON ADDRESSED TO THE AMBASSADOR. WE MAINTAINED THE LINE THAT WE PREFERRED NO DEMONSTRATION BECAUSE OTHER GROUPS MIGHT

TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE. PHAN AGREED THAT HE WOULD BRING A PARTY OF FIVE AND A PHALANX OF NEWSMEN JULY 3 TO PRESENT HIS LETTER TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER.

6. THE PMPG DISTRIBUTED VARIOUS TYPES OF LEAFLETS THROUGHOUT BANGKOK ON JULY 2 WHICH STRONGLY CRITICIZE THE ANTI-AMERICAN ACTIVISTS. THE UDORN CONSUL REPORTS THAT DIFFERENT LEAFLETS APPEARED THERE JULY 1 ATTACKING THE ACTIVISTS AND THREATENING VIOLENCE.

7. KANOK WONGTRA-NGAN, AN OFFICIAL OF THE FREEDOM PATY, HAS TOLD EMBASSY SORCES AND OFFICIALS THAT THE NATIONAL VOCATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND (NVSCT) WILL STAGE A 10,000 STRONG PRO-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATION ON JULY 3. KANOK'S AND PHAN'S DEMONSTRATION MAY NOT BE COORDINATED, THUS PRESENTING THE POSSIBILITY OF THE CONSERVATIVES STUMBLING INTO EACH OTHER WHILE EXPRESSING THEIR GOODWILL TOWARD THE UNITED STATES.

8. THE SPECTATORS. THE POLICE NOW TAKE THE VIEW THAT THE RIGHT AND THE LEFT HAVE REACHED A STAND OFF, AND THAT THERE WILL BE NO LARGE LEFTIST DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY ON EITHER JULY 3 OR 4. THEY REMAIN CONCERNED, HOWEVER, AT THE POSSIBILITY THAT MAVERICK GROUPS COULD BE A SOURCE OF TROUBLE. IN THE POLICE VIEW THE RIGHT WING IS STRONGER. IF A MAJOR INCIDENT OCCURRED, THE LEFT WOULD BE BLAMED FOR THE CLASH, FURTHER LOSING PUBLIC SUPPORT. THE POLICE CONTINUE THEIR CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE EMBASSY.

9. THAI OFFICIAL WITH WHOM THE EMBASSY HAS ON-GOING CONTACTS HAVE RECENTLY ASSURED US THAT NOTHING UNTOWARD WILL OCCUR ON JULY 4. THAWISAN LADAWAN, PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE KING, MADE THIS COMMENT TO AN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BANGKO 12943 021608Z

EMBASSY OFFICER JULY 2. SAKON WANNAPHRIK, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TOLD THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR JULY 1 THAT THAI-U.S. RELATIONS WERE PASSING FROM THE MAELSTROM OF THE LAST FEW MONTHS INTO CALMER WATERS. HE PREDICTED A MUCH LESS TURBULENT FUTURE IN OUR BILATERAL DEALINGS.

10. COMMENT. THE STUDENT ACTIVISTS APPEAR TO HAVE OVERESTIMATED THE PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THEIR STAND. THE ORGANIZATION AND DETERMINATION OF THE CONSERVATIVES IS ALSO A NEW FACTOR FURTHER INHIBITING A LIBERAL ACTIVIST DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY.

1. WE AGREE WITH THE POLICE THAT IN THE PRESENT STANDOFF BETWEEN THE LEFT AND RIGHT THE ACTIONS OF A SMALL

MAVERICK GROUP COULD BE IMPORTANT. THIS IS PARTICULARLY
TRUE AS THE RIGHT APPEARS TO BE WILLING TO ACCEPT A
CONFRONTATION. WITH LUCK, THE EMBASSY WILL NOT BE THE
VENUE.
WHITEHOUSE

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